

Director's Report - June 2010  
Changes at Montgomery County Public Libraries

This is a time of transition for Montgomery County Public Libraries. As a result of budget cuts, MCPL is operating with fewer staff and a smaller library materials budget. Library hours will be reduced and there are changes in library services and programs.

As of June 1, MCPL no longer serves as a sub-regional branch of the state's Talking Books Library. Library customers will continue to have access to this service through the State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Baltimore.

Hours of operation will change at all MCPL branches, except Noyes, beginning July 6. While the change reflects a decrease in operating hours, the new schedule will provide consistent opening and closing hours throughout the system. Given our reduced staffing level, it was important to standardize library hours to ensure adequate staff coverage and make it easier for the public to know when the libraries are open.

Also beginning July 6, other changes in library policy and fees will take effect, including a reduction in the number of holds per library card and the reinstatement of a \$2 replacement fee for lost or stolen cards. In addition, the fine level for blocked accounts will be changed to \$25; affected customers will not be able to place holds, check out items or renew items.

Mobile van service is suspended for a two-year period as MCPL plans and develops a new model for community outreach.

The Noyes Library for Young Children will be redesigned and enhanced. Thanks to a partnership with the Noyes Library Foundation, Noyes will remain open while plans are developed and until physical modification of the library begins.

Along with all County government, MCPL is reducing its carbon footprint. As a result, Check Us Out, our quarterly publication of library programs and events, will only be available online at our website. A complete listing of all library events is also available through our online calendar of events. Programs will be announced through email notification, so I encourage all customers to sign up for this convenient service.

One thing that will not change is MCPL's commitment to providing excellent customer service. Your public library is a great community resource, and the library staff is here to assist you in finding materials for your informational and recreational needs.

Thank you for using Montgomery County Public Libraries: Where the County Reads, Where the County Meets and Where the County Learns.

B. Parker Hamilton  
Director